# SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY-EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** 

Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2017 Santa Clara County Census and Survey was a community-wide effort conducted on January 24 and 25, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 587 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

## **Census Population: Longitudinal Trend**



#### 2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

26% Sheltered





#### Age







28% 15% 57%

## Gender







Age at First Episode of Homelessness

<1	%	
Transgender		

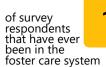
### Sexual Orientation



(Top 4 Responses)

71%	22%
Straight	Bisexual
3%	2%
Lesbian	Gay

## **Foster Care**



**Justice System** 

First Episode of

41%

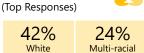
Yes

18%

59%

Homelessness

# Race



16% 14% Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native

**Ethnicity** 42% Hispanic/Latno



of survey respondents have spent at least one night in jail in the past 12 months

## **Subpopulation Data\***



Veterans | 660 Individuals

Families | 294 Families with 1,075 members

28% Sheltered

Unaccompanied Children | 2,530 Individuals & Transition-Age Youth

Sheltered

#### Residence Prior to Homelessness



Santa Clara County

## Length of Time in Santa Clara County

(of those living in Santa Clara County prior to becoming homelessness)

10 YEARS OR MORE

61%

LESS THAN 1 YEAR	1-4 YEARS	5-9 YEARS
5%	17%	17%

#### **Duration of Current Episode** of Homelessness



30 days or less

1 year or more

## **Primary Event or Condition** That Led to Homelessness'



37% Lost Job	20% Alcohol or Drug Use	

14% 13% 6% ce/Seperation/ Argument with Incarceration Breakup Family/ Friend

## Interest in Permanent Housing

89%

of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would accept affordable permanent housing if it became available tomorrow.

## Obstacles to Permanent Housing'

(Top 4 Responses)



What is a disabling condition?



of survey respondents reported a disabling condition

16%

Eviction

A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

#### Health Conditions<sup>\*</sup>

Current health conditions affecting housing stability or employment

(Note: Multiple response question, numbers will not total to 100%)



Drug or Alcohol abuse



Psychiatric or **Emotional Conditions** 



Physical Chronic Health Disability **Problems** 



Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



Traumatic

Brain Injury

Related Illness

#### **Current Accommodation**



36% Shelter



35% Outdoors/ Streets/Parks Encampment











8% Motel/ Hotel

#### **Services and Assistance**



of survey respondents reported receiving

government

benefits

Reasons for Not Receiving Any **Government Assistance** (Top 6 Responses)

39%	17%
Don't Want Gov't	Don't Think I'm
Assistance	Eligible
14%	11%
Never Applied	No ID
9%	7%
No Permanent	Turned Down

#### Services Currently Accessing \* (Top 6 Responses)

80% 41% Meal Services **Bus Passes** 28% 18% Community Drop-In Center Religious Based Services 10% 8% Job/Employment **Outreach Services** 

## \*Subpopulation Definitions

#### **Chronically Homeless**

An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

#### **Veterans**

Persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

#### **Families**

A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under

#### Unaccompanied Children

Services

Children under the age of 18 who are homeless and living without a parent or legal guardian.

#### Transition-Age Youth

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County. It can be found at www.sccgov.org/homelesscount

Address

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.

<sup>•</sup> Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.